

REMARKS

Claims 12-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 12 and 19 have been amended.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,668,322 (Wood).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 12 and 19 are patentable over Wood, as Wood fails to teach “periodically validating access privileges based on contractual relationship information between at least two parties,” as in the present invention.

In the “Response to Arguments” section on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that trust level mapping is viewed as a contractual relationship, as the trust level establishes rules governing which applications the user can access with the credentials that were generated at the trust level. The Examiner further stated that the trust level is between the user and the security architecture. See Office Action, page 2.

Assuming *arguendo* that, in Wood, a “contractual relationship” is between a user and a security architecture which allows access to certain resources based on the contract, a security architecture is not a “party.” Therefore, Wood fails to disclose periodically validating access privileges based on contractual relationship information between at *least two parties*, as recited in currently amended claims 12 and 19.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 12 and 19 are patentable over the references. As independent claim 20 recites language similar to that of independent claim 12, claim 20 is patentable over Wood for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 12. As the dependent claims depend from independent claim 12, the dependent claims are patentable over Wood for at least the reasons presented above.

Although the Examiner alleged that Wood teaches, “comparing user login data with contractual information between at least two parties to determine system access privileges,” Applicants respectfully submit that the allegation is false.

In particular, the particular section of Wood cited by the Examiner, that is, column 5/lines 46-57, describes a user obtaining authorization for access to a particular requested enterprise application or information resource. Applicants respectfully submit that a requested enterprise application or information resource is not a party.

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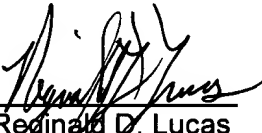
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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